

to arrest one of the men without drawing his weapon, and the other suspect was apprehended shortly thereafter. Officer Paniagua's quick thinking under pressure helped the Sonoma County Sheriff's Office arrest the two suspects, and his example of bravery and decisiveness should inspire all of our public servants.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Officer Paniagua for his dedication to our community's safety. For this reason, it is fitting and proper that I honor him here today.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRENDAN F. BOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, unfortunately I missed a vote during a vote series on September 28, 2016. Had my vote been recorded for Roll Call 572, final passage on H.R. 5303, the Water Resources Development Act of 2016, I would have voted Yes.

TRIBUTE TO THE MOUNT HOPE
MOSQUE—ISLAMIC SUNNA WAI
JAMAA

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure and admiration that I stand before you today to honor the Mt. Hope Mosque for their many years of selfless and compassionate service to all of our community's residents.

The masjid was founded by a group of Guyanese Muslims led by Imam Shameem Ali on the Grand Concourse in the early part of the 1980s. It was the second such institution in the whole of the Bronx. Due to the need for a larger space in 1985 it was moved to its present location, 24 Mount Hope Place. Once at its present location, a residential area, it drew the attention of Muslims in the neighborhood who had no place to go for prayers. In the spirit of the unity of Islam, the doors of the masjid were opened to all, including non-Muslims. In doing so, the ethnicity of the members became so diverse that it was dubbed—The United Nations Mosque.

The Ameer or leader of the masjid, Mr. Abdallah Cromwell is a Trinidadian, who runs the "His People Halal Restaurant" down the block from the masjid. The first imam of the masjid is Imam Shameem Ali from Guyana, who recently retired and passed his mantle to his young and energetic deputy, Imam Issah

Lamin Yusuf, who is from Ghana. Imam Issah Lamin Yusuf's deputy is Imam Hameed Fofana from the Gambia. Imam Issah and his deputies lead the congregants in their daily prayers and also run a daily after-school and weekend programs to educate children of the congregation in religious knowledge.

The mosque has a Boys' and Cubs' Scout Troop, who have been invited to many places in the city and the state. Recently, they were invited to recite the Pledge of Allegiance and the Scouts' Creed at the last general meeting of the New York State leadership committee.

There are programs to educate the congregants on good citizenship and civic responsibilities. Every Friday after congregational prayers there is enough food for all. During the holy month of Ramadan there is enough food for everyone who comes to break their fast. From 1989 until 2000 the mosque ran a food pantry for the neighborhood's needy.

Another uniqueness of this masjid is its plurality of ethnicities. Its congregants are from—Asia, Europe, Africa, and the Americas. Mount Hope Masjid was founded to serve the religious and social needs of some Guyanese, but it grew to serve a diverse group of people with the same needs. It still serves the same purpose and it will continue to do so for a long time, Insha-Allah.

Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring the Mt. Hope Mosque for their consistently remarkable dedication to public service.